

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 19th July 2006****(By Public Information Office)**

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

Signatories to the DPA and holdout groups exercise violence in Darfur

(*AlAyaam* – 19th Jul. **Khartoum**) In his address before the donors' conference in Brussels, Secretary-General Annan said that he will request the Security Council to mandate the United Nations to provide a new level of funding for the African Union in Sudan while the donors provide short-term funding ahead of a possible transition through the consent of the Sudan government.

Annan further pointed out that both the signatories and the holdout rebels of the Darfur Peace Agreement are continuing to carry out acts of violence. He said that the success of the Darfur Peace Agreement depends on the ability of the African Union to carry out its "many and complex tasks in protecting civilians and to address ceasefire violations".

He said that many people in Darfur are concerned about some clauses of the agreement but the agreement is not open for negotiations. He said however that rejection of the Darfur Peace Agreement should not be used as a justification for continued violence.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations further said that those who are afraid of United Nations forces are deceived and deprive their citizens of assistance. He gave assurances that there are no hidden agenda behind the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers.

** Today's headlines had the title "... Secretary-General Annan says, 'we will deploy despite everything'" quoted from AlKhartoum daily. The story in the same newspaper does not say anything of the sort.*

Sudan closer to change of position on Darfur UN mission- EU

(*Xinhua/ST* – 18th Jul. **Brussels**) European Union (EU) foreign policy and security chief Javier Solana said Tuesday that the Sudanese government might be closer to a change of position on a UN mission in the Darfur region.

"Has the government of Sudan changed their position as taken by (Sudanese) President Bashir? No," Solana told a press conference.

"But it is no doubt today a lot of things have been clarified and we are closer probably to have a change of that position and get closer to the will of the majority of countries."

He said he, together with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, held talks with Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol for almost two hours on Monday and "a lot of things that were less clear before are clearer now."

The Sudanese side was not available for comment in Brussels.

A Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday that Akol was not traveling to Brussels to give a nod to a UN mission.

The leaders are meeting in Brussels to discuss the security situation in the war-torn Darfur region and the implementation of a fragile peace agreement. Donors are also expected to

pledge support for the AU mission in Darfur, both financially and in technology and logistics.

U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Jendayi Frazer, said her country is ready to give assurances to the Sudanese government on the nature of the UN mission.

"We try to give some assurances to President (Omar Hassan) Bashir — through his foreign minister — about what the intent of a UN mission would be," she told the same press conference.

She met separately with Akol in the morning.

"I think it's important that we also be transparent with the government of Sudan and explain what our intension is ... There is no hidden agenda here. There is no ulterior motive."

She said the goal of the UN mission is to support and protect civilian lives in the region and allow the displaced to return to normal life. "We are there and we want a capable force given the complexity of the challenges."

Jean-Marie Guehenno, a senior UN adviser, said the situation in Darfur is "very precarious, very fragile" and that the urgency of action can never be overstated.

He emphasized the need to bring on board all the movements that has not signed the Darfur peace agreement.

Sudan faces pressure to accept U.N. force

(*AP/ST* – 18th Jul. **Brussels**) World powers pressed the Sudanese government Tuesday to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur province to replace overstretched African Union troops who have struggled to protect civilians from rebels and pro-government militias.

Delegates from more than 70 nations at a conference on Sudan were united in calling for the U.N. force, which the Sudanese government is refusing to allow in to replace AU peacekeepers, and a halt to violence in the vast western region.

"This must stop immediately," U.S. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, warning that those frustrating peace efforts could face international sanctions.

The daylong conference raised \$200 million in fresh donations to support the 7,300-member AU force in Darfur - about half what the AU says it needs to keep the mission running until the end of the year, when the U.N. hopes to take over peacekeeping.

The United States provided \$116 million, the European Commission \$38 million and the Netherlands \$25 million. The head of the African Union, Alpha Oumar Konare, said nations had assured him more would be provided later to keep the operation afloat.

Although NATO and the EU have provided training and other support, the AU force is thinly spread around the remote area roughly the size of France. In an appeal to the conference, aid agencies said the lack of manpower and equipment meant the African force could not adequately protect villages and refugee camps.

"This lack of funding means patrols in and around camps are impossible or have been scaled back," said Denis Caillaux, secretary general of CARE international. "We are seeing people attacked, killed or raped as a result."

The conference also increased pressure on two Darfur rebel groups that rejected a May peace deal with the government.

"Those who have signed the Darfur peace agreement are not implementing it, and there remain two important parties who continue to refuse to sign it," said European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana. "Meanwhile the people of Darfur continue a third year of suffering."

V-P Taha says Sudan is keen to foil conspiracy of international forces' deployment

(*AlAyaam* – 19th Jul. **Port Sudan**) Vice-President Ali Osman Taha has called on parties to the ongoing talks on eastern Sudan being held in Asmara to expedite solution to those problems so that all would turn their focus to serious development work.

Addressing a mass rally in Port Sudan where the Vice-President is on a 2-day visit, Taha said Sudan will remain a forum for freedom, justice and development.

He called on the Government of Red Sea State to create a political council comprising all political forces in the area in order to guarantee freedom and harmony.

Taha also assured the people that Sudan would foil all "conspiracies" pushing for the deployment of international troops to Darfur.

CPA

JDB urges assistance from the international community for funding of DDR program

(*Allintibaha* – 19th Jul. **Khartoum**) The technical committee of the Joint Defence Board under Mjr. Gen. Elias Waya gave a detailed briefing yesterday to the Assessment and Evaluation Commission on the Joint Integrated Units, the ceasefire arrangements and the status of redeployment.

Mjr. Gen. Majzoub Rahama, the official spokesperson for the JDB, says that the meeting with the Assessment and Evaluation Commission also covered issues pertaining to the independence of the JDB, the fact it is answerable to the Presidency and the fact it is locally funded.

The spokesperson urged the international community to support funding of the SSR program in order to facilitate solutions to the problems of the Other Armed groups and the downsizing of the forces of the SPLA and the SAF.

The meeting, he adds, also addressed the issue of redeployment in oil-rich areas and underlined the need for the two forces to stick to the deadlines set plus the need for a defence strategy for the forces.

On its part, the Assessment and Evaluation Commission assured the JDB that funding has indeed been provided for the DDR program and that it is ready to assist in the

implementation of these programs as soon as it receives all relevant information from the state institutions.

GoNU

Sudanese Vice President starts one week visit to USA

(*AlRai AlAam* – 19th Jul. **Washington**) Vice-President Kiir and a high-rank delegation arrived in Washington yesterday on an official visit during which he will be holding talks with President Bush and a number of US state officials before addressing a rally in Washington next Sunday.

Informed sources say however that the Sudanese Embassy is not aware of the Vice-President's itinerary and pointed out that the visit is being organised by the SPLM office.

The sources add however that among the issues to be discussed during the VP's meeting is a follow up on the earlier requests from the GoSS to be exempted from US unilateral sanction on Sudan in order to enable the GoSS embark on development programs.

The GoSS had requested an exemption to enable it buy rail engines, river boats and Boeing aircraft spare parts.

The sources also say that the VP will also discuss the issue of the delay in implementation of the CPA and direct US assistance for returnees and assistance to urge donor states to meet their pledges.

Southern Sudan

SPLA kills 9 northern traders, injures 11 in Rabkona while the United Nations looks on

(*Allintibaha* – 19th Jul. **Rabkona, S. Sudan**) The SPLA opened fire on northern Sudanese traders in Rabkona market yesterday killing 9 and injuring 11 others.

Eyewitnesses report that the violence erupted yesterday morning in the wake of a heated argument between a SAF soldier and some SPLA, some of whom were in civilian attire [*the paper does not mention the causes of the argument*].

The SPLA soldiers then started beating up the northern and chased him into his house in a nearby residential area where some more northerners were killed.

The SPLA soldiers then went on a rampage looting property of the northern Sudanese traders in the market.

The assailants were said to have turned down pleas by the northern Sudanese traders to rescue the injured while UNMIS military stood by looking on as the street was littered with bodies of those killed and the injured were left bleeding. 2 of the injured who hail from el-Fasher were left to bleed to death.

Violence was renewed around 17:30 hours yesterday when the SPLA opened fire on some northern Sudanese who were on their way back from the cemetery where their dead were buried.

The northern traders then fled and took refuge at the nearby military garrison.

Darfur Peace Agreement/Darfur

NRF claims capture of SLM-Minnawi positions

(*AllIntibaha* – 19th Jul. **el-Fasher**) The National Redemption Front says it has captured all SLM-Minnawi position in Darfur causing some of them to flee into Chad while others fled into el-Fasher.

JEM commander in eastern Sudan, AbdelAziz Aher, said that the NRF captured these positions in the last three days after sustained military operations and has seized a large number of artillery and ammunition.

He criticised Minnawi for “turning his back” against the movements of which he was a part.

On the other hand, SLM-Minnawi spokesperson Mahjoub Hussein denies these reports and says that this only shows the state of failure that the NRF suffers from.

He claims their faction still controls all its positions.

Government seeks InterPol intervention on attackers of Hamrat el-Sheikh

(*AllIntibaha* – 19th Jul. **Khartoum**) The Sudan government has filed a case at the InterPol against the National Redemption Front that claimed responsibility for the recent tattack on Hamrat el-Sheikh.

Justice minister Mohamed el-Mardi told reporters yesterday that the case is filed against two groups: one of the them being the political leadership of the National Redemption Front (that includes Ahmed Ibrahim Direij, Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, Sherif Hareer and Tirab) and the second group consists the field commanders Abubakar Hamid, the deputy Secretary-General of the JEM, Mohamed Idreis Gadoura, Abubakar Hamid, Abdullah Banda and others.

The justice minister says that a forensics team is carrying out analysis on the fingerprints and the explosives, ammunition and shells from the attack site and gathering the information for the case.

Darfur lawyers’ fraternity blames SLM-Minnawi over attack on Kurma

(*AlAyaam* – 19th Jul. **Khartoum**) The Darfur Lawyers’ Council has accused SLM-Minnawi of killing 2 people in Kurma and carrying out what it described as “clear violations of the rights of the people”.

In a statement issued yesterday, the fraternity said SLM-Minnawi looted the people and has caused the displacement of many and has called for pressures on the SLM to stop such acts.

On the other hand, SLM-Minnawi spokesperson Mahjoub Hussein denied the accusations and it was an attempt at settling personal grudges and derailing the Darfur Peace Agreement.

He challenged the lawyers’ fraternity to substantiate their claims with evidence.

Hussein said that the AbdulWahid faction may have been responsible for the attack on Kurma.

“We have always been stressing the need for the protection of the civilian populations of Darfur and can not carry out such stupid acts”, he said.

Arab tribes in Darfur back disarmament plan

(*AlAyaam, AlHayat* – 19th Jul. **Khartoum**) The DDR Commission for Northern Sudan says it has the support of the Presidency of the Republic for the disarmament of the militias that it described as key threats to security in Darfur.

In a meeting yesterday with the Consultative Council of Arab Tribes of Darfur that there are proposals in place for the formation of a unified consultative council of all tribes of Darfur on issues pertaining to DDR.

On its part, the Consultative Council of Arab Tribes of Darfur that represents 22 such tribes have expressed their support for the DDR program.

“If the Darfur Peace Agreement achieves 1% security in Darfur then we are with it”, says Mahmoud Musa, the head of the council.

He said that the Arab tribes in the region bought the guns they have of their own money in order to protect themselves and their livestock.

He called upon the international community to stop using double standards in handling their issues and pointed out that they are not Janjaweed but people who want to co-exist in peace with their neighbours.

He called for dialogue with the international community to wipe out some of these misconceptions.

AU in Darfur lacks women, rape training - Amnesty

(*Reuters/ST* – 18th Jul. **Khartoum**) Darfur peacekeepers should include more women and should be trained in women’s rights to help reduce widespread rape and sexual slavery, rights group Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

Thousands of women have been raped during three years of violence in Darfur, a region the size of France in west Sudan, and an under-funded 7,000-strong African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission has struggled to protect civilians.

"Teams investigating human rights violations must include a woman wherever possible ... Those funding AMIS (the AU mission in Sudan) should provide training and expertise in women’s rights and gender-based violence," Amnesty said in a report.

The report comes as the United Nations and aid agencies meet in Brussels to press donors to finance the AU mission and urge Sudan to accept a more able U.N. mission, a move it has repeatedly rejected.

In the report, Amnesty calls for more money and personnel for the AU mission, more independent reporting on rights abuses, the disarmament of militias and urges the AU to do more to protect civilians.

North Darfur says no AlQaeda training camp in the area

(*AlAyaam* - 19th Jul. **el-Fasher**) The Government of North Darfur says there are no AlQaeda training grounds in the area.

The *Wali* [Governor] admits there are clashes in the northern part of his state between rival SLM factions but no AlQaeda training camps.

A spokesperson for SLM-Minnawi also said there are no AlQaeda camps in areas under their control.

It is worth noting that SLM-AbdulWahid had recently said it has been monitoring the movement of about 400 foreigners at a newly-opened training camp for AlQaeda operatives in Serif Omar near Kabkabiya in North Darfur.

In a statement issued yesterday, SLM-AbdulWahid claimed that local government-backed militias are carrying out the training.